(e) Funds for development of national waterways are provided to IWAI by the Government. During 2001-02, IWAI was allocated Rs. 34.23 crore for development of National Waterways.

**Night navigation in National Waterways-1**

406. SHRI NILOPTAL BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stretch of waterways between Haldia and Allahabad has been designated as the National Waterways-1;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate night navigation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad was declared as National Waterway No. 1 in 1986. Provision of infrastructure such as navigational channels, terminals at select locations and navigational aids form part of the development schemes for the National Waterway No-1.

(c) In NW 1 a scheme for provision of 24 hrs. navigational facilities between Kolkata and Farakka, has been approved. Upper stretches of NW-1 are proposed to be provided with such facility in phases.

**Strike against privatisation of SCI**

407. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forward Seamens Union of India had given a call for one day strike on 22nd February to Indian and foreign going ships of Shipping Corporation of India against privatisation;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to avert the strike;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?